



03500.014439.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                  |   |                         |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| In re Application of:            | ) |                         |
|                                  | : | Examiner: K. L. Jerabek |
| TSUKASA SAKO                     | ) |                         |
|                                  | : | Group Art Unit: 2612    |
| Appln. No.: 09/552,590           | ) |                         |
|                                  | : |                         |
| Filed: April 19, 2000            | ) |                         |
|                                  | : |                         |
| For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, | ) |                         |
| METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM        | : |                         |
| THEREFOR                         | ) | August 13, 2004         |

**RECEIVED**

AUG 18 2004

Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

A Request For Continued Examination (RCE) is filed concurrently herewith.

Preliminary to continued examination, please further amend the above-identified application in the following manner. Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing beginning at page 2, and the Remarks begin at page 11.